

PATENT
SZS&Z Ref. No. : IO031108PUS
Atty. Dkt. No. INFN/SZ0028

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS

This is intended as a supplemental response to the previously filed (on November 23, 2005) response to Office Action dated August 23, 2005. This response is intended to address issues in the previous response pointed out by the Examiner in a paper mailed February 9, 2006.

Claims 2-5, 8-19 and 22-24 are pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 8-19 and 22-24 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 2, 8, 13-15 and 22 have been amended. New claims 25-27 have been added to recite aspects of the invention. Applicant submits that the amendments and new claims do not introduce new matter.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because labels in the drawings are not consistent with specification. A replacement drawing is submitted herewith. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 14 and 15 have been objected to. Applicant has amended these claims to clarify reference to previously recited NMOS and PMOS current drive, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2-5, 8-15, 17, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Kiehl* (US 6,492,836 B2). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as follows.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

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Applicant submits that *Kiehl* does not each and every element as set forth in the claims. As an example, Applicant submits that *Kiehl* does not teach a compensating current source that comprises a current source transistor for delivering a compensating current to the output node, the current source transistor having a control terminal which is controlled independent on the intermediate voltage signal, as claimed in independent claims 2, 8, and 22. Further, Applicant submits that *Kiehl* does not teach "at least a first current mirror having a first branch and a second branch coupled to the output node, the second branch delivering a current to the output node," as claimed in independent claim 13.

With respect to independent claim 4, Applicant submits that *Kiehl* does not teach "coupling at least one compensating current source to the output node to compensate for changes in at least one of a rate at which the output node is precharged and a rate at which the output node is discharged" and "controlling the amount of current provided by the compensating current source via a process dependent current source whose current is mirrored by the compensating current" as claimed. With respect to independent claim 11, Applicant submits that *Kiehl* does not teach "at least a first compensating current source coupled to the output node to compensate for changes in at least one of a rate at which the output node is precharged and a rate at which the output node is discharged" and "wherein the second stage comprises an inverter formed by a PMOS transistor and an NMOS transistor and the first compensating current source supplements current flowing from the output node through the NMOS transistor as function of PMOS current drive" as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claims 2, 4, 8, 11, 13, and 22, as well as their dependents are allowable and requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16, 18, and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have been rewritten, as suggested, as new claims 25-27. Accordingly, Applicant submits these claims are allowable and requests withdrawal of this objection.

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Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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